

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MANILA 05850 281009Z

21

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

AID-05 /062 W

----- 031797

R 280946Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4469

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 5850

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, RP, MY

SUBJECT: RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN SABAH

1. DURING CONVERSATION WITH PRESIDENT MARCOS APRIL 28, I ASKED HIM HOW HE VIEWED RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN SABAH. MARCOS IMMEDIATELY ATTRIBUTED MUSTAPHA'S DEFEAT IN ELECTION TO ACTION TAKEN BY HUSSEIN ONN IN DISPATCHING TROOPS TO SUPERVISE POLLING AND PREVENT MUSTAPHA FROM HIS USUAL PRACTICES OF BALLOT COUNTING.

2. MARCOS SAID THAT HE HAD TAKEN NOTE OF STATEMENTS BY NEW SABAH PRIME MINISTER TUN MOHAMED FUAD CONCERNING HIS DESIRE TO REPATRIATE FILIPINO REFUGEES FROM SABAH. MARCOS VIEWED THIS POSTIVELY AND WISHED TO RESPOND IN A POSITIVE VIEN. HOWEVER, HE FELT THAT ANY DIRECT DEALING - EVEN AS A GUESTURE - TO FAUD MIGHT BE MISINTERPRETED IN KUALA LUMPUR. HE THEREFORE WISHED TO DEAL WITH HUSSEIN ONN, BUT WOULD HAVE TO AWAIT HIS RETURN FROM NAIROBI. HE POINTED OUT THAT HUSSEIN ONN ALSO SEEMED TO HAVE HIS HANDS FULL AT THE MOMENT.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MANILA 05850 281009Z

3. IN MUSING FURTHER ON SABAH, MARCOS SAID IT WOULD BE UNWISE TO COUNT MUSTAPHA COMPLETELY OUT OF THE PICTURE. HE STILL HAD MANY RESOURCES AND MUCH AMBITION. SO LONG AS HE REMAINED IN KOTA KINABALU HE COULD CAUSE TROUBLE. HE SAID THAT IT WOULD BE INTERESTING TO SEE WHETHER HUSSEIN ONN WOULD PROCEED AGAINST MUSTAPHA IN THE COURTS, WHERE HE COULD CERTAINLY PRODUCE ENOUGH EVIDENCE TO CONVICT HIM IF HE CHOSE. MARCOS SAID THERE ARE WIDESPREAD RUMORS THAT MUSTAPHA AND HIS SON HAVE BEEN ENGAGED IN THE NARCOTICS TRAFFIC, USING THEIR 707, AND ALSO CONCEALING DRUGS IN TIMPER SHIPMENTS.

4. AT THIS POINT, I INDICATED THAT THE GROUNDING OF THE MUSTAPHA AIRLINE OUGHT TO BRING DIVIDENDS TO THE PHILIPPINES IN ELIMINATING A VEHICLE FOR THE TRANSPORT OF LIBYAN WEAPONS. MARCOS AGREED, BUT EXPECTED THE LIBYANS TO FIND OTHER MEANS OF CONVEYANCE.

5. FINALLY, MARCOS RETURNED TO SUBJECT OF HUSSEIN ONN AND EXPRESSED CONSIDERABLE ADMIRATION FOR WAY HE HAD TAKEN HOLD IN MALAYSIA. HE SAID THE FELT HE AND ONN HAD HIT IT OFF WELL PERSONALLY AT BALI AND HOPED PROGRESS COULD BE MADE IN THE IMPROVEMENT OF PHILIPPINE-MALAYSIAN RELATIONS.
SULLIVAN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, SABAH, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MANILA05850
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760162-0332
From: MANILA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760414/aaaaalkk.tel
Line Count: 85
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 MAY 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <20 SEP 2004 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN SABAH
TAGS: PFOR, RP, MY, US, (MARCOS, FERDINAND), (SULLIVAN, WILLIAM H)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006